HOUSTON, William. [Editorial Dept., The Globe] May-June 1919 (018)

52

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Globe office May 19/97 120

Sir Robert Falconer

Dear Sir

As I may be going away from the City for a vacation before long I most earnestly desire to have a brief talk with you over the way opened up by the death of Professor Lefroy for an important improvement of the University course in Constitutional work, without any addition to the cost of the tuition. I cannot hope to make this plain to you without explanations too long and involved to commit to writing. Fifteen minutes of

Conversation would effect
more than a dozen letters. Grave
errors have been perpetrated
in the past, some of which
might be remedied in making
provision for the work of next
session, and the way might
thus be cleared pro tanto
for a more thorough re-
arrangement and expan-
sion at some future time.
If you give me a few hours'
notice I can see you at any
time you name.

Sincerely

W. R. Houston

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

The Globe.

Stowell

118

Toronto, Canada. June 19/19

Sir Robert Falconer

Dear Sir

Since I spoke to you about the desirability of changing the title of the subject called "Constitutional Law" in the Arts Calendar of the University of Toronto, I happened to notice that, in status, it was merely an adjunct to the Chair proper of the late Professor Lefroy, who was "Professor" of Roman Law, English Law, and Jurisprudence, and was only "Special Lecturer" in Federal, English, and Colonial Constitutional Law. These forms of expression indicate that, if it is even deemed practicable to move "Constitutional Law and Custom" taken up in its own proper connection with Constitutional History, it would be comparatively easy to make the transfer from association with a subject to which it cannot be regarded as having any close relation, to identification with one with which it is inseparably blended.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

The Globe.

Toronto,
Canada.

If your excellent suggestion of the establishment of an efficient Law Faculty by means of co-operation of the University with the teaching Law School maintained by the Law Society, can be carried out, any teacher of the work included under the terms "Law" and "Jurisprudence", treated historically, will certainly have all he can do, and more, without being gratuitously burdened with a subject that bears no close relation of any sort to them.

Owing to the peculiar position in which the action of the Management placed me some time ago in this office I must soon give up my work here. Speaking in absolute confidence, I am at present on what would be a scanty retiring allowance, and that may cease at any time, and must cease soon at the farthest. I am as capable

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

The Globe.

Toronto,
Canada.

as I ever was physically for the work in Constitutional Law, and I am better fitted than ever before in knowledge of the subject and ability to teach educatively any subject I know well. I know thoroughly the whole field available for selection, and for your purposes I know of no other person so well fitted to do the work in reasonably better than it has been done in the past, and as it ought to be done for the time to come. I have kept in close observational touch with the very latest changes made in the Constitutions of the Dominions of Canada, Australia, and South Africa, and of the United Kingdom and India, and the practice of this observation I can keep up from year to year indefinitely.

4

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

The Globe.

Toronto, Canada.

In view of what I have said I think it only fair to you, as President, to say that I am preparing an application to the Board of Governors for an appointment to fill the vacancy in the "Special Lectureship" in Constitutional Law. I am ready to undertake the work at once if that were necessary. To show that I mean business I am at work on a short series of volumes on the general subject: (1) a second edition of my "Canadian Documents" thoroughly revised and greatly improved; (2) a similar selection for the United States; and (3) a similar selection for the United Kingdom and for the self governing Dominions of the Empire. I hope to have all these in the press by the end of this year. My own collection has been for years one of the text books on

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

The Globe.

Toronto,
Canada.

Constitutional Law in our own
and other Universities.

I would like to have a frank
discussion with you of the whole situa-
tion if it suits you to grant me the
privilege. My earnest desire is to
do something worth while for the
subject, for the University, for other
Universities here and elsewhere, for
my own profession of journalism,
for the elevation of the conceptions of
statesmanship, and for the promotion
of the restoration of a shattered world to
a saner condition and a higher civili-
zation. I cannot stand any longer en-
forced idleness when I want to work
and am capable of doing it better than
the mood of this generation.

Yours truly W. Houston